

Message Text

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ORIGIN SP-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 TRSE-00 SS-15 /027 R

DRAFTED BY S/P:LEINAUDI:LM

APPROVED BY T:CEMAW

ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

L/EUR:DAGANTZ

TREASURY:FMARESCA (SUBSTANCE)

ARA/EP:CFULLER

S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195786

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: BDIS EINV EIND EMIN PFOR

SUBJECT:REPLY TO DE LA PUENTE

PLEASE DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND IN ANY EVENT BEFORE
HIS DEPARTURE TO BUENOS AIRES, THE FOLLOWING SELF-
EXPLANATORY LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY MAW TO FOREIGN
MINISTER DE LA PUENTE:

DEAR JOSE:

MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN THE THREE MONTHS SINCE WE LAST SAW
EACH OTHER. INDEED, YOU HAVE BECOME FOREIGN MINISTER, A
POSITION FOR WHICH YOUR TALENTS AND EXPERIENCE ARE ADMIRABLY
SUITED. I CONGRATULATE YOU.

RECENT MONTHS HAVE NOT, UNFORTUNATELY, RECORDED THE
SETTLEMENT TO WHICH YOU AND I--AND OUR GOVERNMENTS--HAVE
DEDICATED SO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT: THE AGREEMENT ON JUST
COMPENSATION FOR THE MARCONA MINING COMPANY.

I COMMUNICATED OUR SUBSTANTIVE POSITION TO THEN PRIME
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MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO ON MAY 28. I WOULD NOW LIKE TO

COMMUNICATE TO YOU AS A FRIEND AS WELL AS FOREIGN MINISTER
SOME OF MY CONCERNS ON PROCEDURES AND TIMING.

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE PROPOSED THAT WE SCHEDULE THE
FINAL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 23.
I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THOSE DATES. MY ONLY CONCERN
REGARDS THE CUMULATIVE DELAYS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE
OUR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE LAST APRIL. THE HIATUS IN OUR
SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS IS PROGRESSIVELY WEAKENING THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ASSURANCES WE HAVE BOTH REPEATEDLY
GIVEN--TO INTERESTED OUTSIDERS AS WELL AS WITHIN OUR
GOVERNMENTS--THAT WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF REACHING AN
EQUITABLE SOLUTION.

WE THUS HAVE A COMMON TASK: TO DEVELOP THE PROCEDURES
THAT WILL LEAD TO THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE SETTLEMENT AND
THEREBY FORESTALL NEW COMPLICATIONS. THE ISSUES REMAINING
ARE FEW AND IN SOME RESPECTS SIMPLE; YET THEIR RESOLUTION
INVOLVES A VARIETY OF PRACTICAL OBSTACLES--EVEN IN AREAS
ON WHICH THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT. WE WILL NEED A FEW
DAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, JUST TO ENSURE THAT THE NECESSARY
CONTRACTS CONFORM TO THE TERMS OF OUR AGREEMENT ONCE THAT
IS REACHED.

I WAS THEREFORE MOST ENCOURAGED TO HEAR THAT YOUR
GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO TRANSMIT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE
US NEGOTIATORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE ARRIVING IN LIMA. THE
ADVANCE RECEIPT OF SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSES TO MY PROPOSAL
OF MAY 28 WOULD ENABLE US TO RENEW MOMENTUM, MAKE HEADWAY
IN OUR PREPARATIONS, AND THEREBY GREATLY FACILITATE THE
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE FINAL NEGOTIATIONS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR PROPOSED TIMETABLE.

ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THESE ARE YOUR THOUGHTS AS WELL,
AND THAT WE CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE SHORTLY YOUR SUGGESTIONS
ON HOW TO RESOLVE OUR REMAINING DIFFERENCES, I AM PLEASED
TO ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION, AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
AGAIN IN LIMA LATER THIS MONTH.

/S/ CARL
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, COMPENSATION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE195786
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LEINAUDI:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760304-0356
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760878/aaaacqtd.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SP
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLY TO DE LA PUENTE PLEASE DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND IN ANY EVENT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO BUENOS AIRES, THE FOLLOWING SELF-TAGS: BDIS, EINV, EMIN, PFOR, PSDC, US, PE, MARCONA
To: LIMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006